

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL TIMMONS  
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*  
SUBJECT: Representative Minshall Correspondence

At Tab A is a suggested reply to a letter from a constituent of Congressman Minshall of Ohio which raised questions concerning Dr. Kissinger's remarks about a peaceful Communist takeover in South Vietnam and about U. S. aid to North Vietnam (Tab B).

This reply puts Dr. Kissinger's comments in perspective and assures Congressman Minshall that any future aid to North Vietnam would be designed to encourage a peaceful evolution in Southeast Asia and would depend on North Vietnam's willingness to implement the Vietnam Agreement.

We greatly regret the lateness of this reply.

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Bill:

I am replying further to your note of March 8 forwarding a letter from your constituent, Mr. Norman R. Patrick, concerning remarks attributed to Dr. Kissinger about South Vietnam's future and concerning the question of U. S. aid to North Vietnam.

I believe that to put into proper perspective the Wall Street Journal item cited by your constituent, it should be understood that what we are hoping to achieve with the North Vietnamese -- as Dr. Kissinger said -- is "to get a commitment from them, not on paper, but in terms of their action, to a peaceful evolution in Indochina, and that is precariously poised right now."

This statement is consistent also with the terms of the Vietnam Agreement signed on January 27, 1973 which pledges the signatories to cease military actions, to work for the peaceful evolutionary development and to ensure the self-determination of the people of South Vietnam.

We, of course, will continue to assist South Vietnam in its own efforts of self-determination and insist on full compliance with all provisions of the Vietnam peace agreement. We remain deeply interested in the future of Indochina but believe that the Agreement -- if respected by all parties -- provides a structure whereby the people of the area can themselves peacefully resolve their differences and assure a lasting peace.

The Accords include provisions for the cessation of hostilities and of infiltration in South Vietnam, ~~the withdrawal of all foreign forces in South Vietnam~~ and the establishment of a National Council of Reconciliation and Concord in South Vietnam to develop the modalities of new national elections there. The U.S. will insist that these provisions as well as those concerning the return of all prisoners of war and a full accounting for our missing be carried out scrupulously by all parties.

Concerning the issue of future U.S. economic assistance to North Vietnam, the Administration has clearly indicated that such assistance will depend on North Vietnam's willingness to implement the Vietnam Agreement; moreover, it would be conducted within the larger framework of assistance to the four Indochinese states including South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos as well as North Vietnam. We will also seek to relate U.S. assistance to Indochina to contributions of other nations.

We believe that a program of international reconstruction and development conducted under proper safeguards to assure that the aid is used for its intended purposes, will give the peoples of Indochina a stake in the peace and an incentive for maintaining it and for moving toward a more peaceful evolution in Indochina. Whatever programs may ultimately be proposed, these will, of course, require the participation and approval of Congress, and the Administration intends to engage in full consultations with the Congress before any final programs are formulated.

We believe that the scrupulous implementation of the Agreement and the development of a framework for peaceful evolution in Indochina provide the best hope for the peoples of that troubled region and are in the national interest of the United States.

Sincerely,

MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

May 21, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT  
FROM: ALVIN P. ADAMS  
SUBJECT: Representative Minshall Correspondence

Bill Timmons has asked us to prepare a draft reply to a letter from a constituent of Congressman Minshall of Ohio. The constituent raised questions concerning Dr. Kissinger's remarks about a peaceful Communist takeover in South Vietnam and about U. S. aid to North Vietnam (Tab B).

We have prepared a draft response for Mr. Timmons' transmittal putting Dr. Kissinger's comments into perspective and assuring the Congressman and his constituent that the peace accords and any future aid to North Vietnam are designed to ensure the right of self-determination and to encourage a peaceful evolution in Southeast Asia (Tab A).

I greatly regret the lateness of this reply but the press of higher-priority business and the reduction of our staff have kept us from promptly handling our correspondence.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to Mr. Timmons at Tab I transmitting the proposed draft response to Congressman Minshall at Tab A.

John Lehman concurs.

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Bill:

I am replying further to your note of March 8 forwarding a letter from your constituent, Mr. Norman R. Patrick, concerning remarks attributed to Dr. Kissinger about South Vietnam's future and concerning the question of U.S. aid to North Vietnam.

I believe it would be helpful to put into perspective the Wall Street Journal item cited by your constituent concerning Dr. Kissinger's remarks about a future North Vietnamese or Communist role in South Vietnam as reportedly made to Barbara Walters on NBC Television on February 23. Quoting from the show's transcript, the context of Dr. Kissinger's remarks is as follows:

"North Vietnam will never relinquish its desire to take over South Vietnam. This generation is a group of revolutionaries.... The issue is will they want to unify Vietnam by force, or are they willing to rely on an evolutionary process.... Therefore, if the North Vietnamese are willing to compete peacefully, if they are willing to develop their country, if they are willing to rely on a political process, then we don't object to their objective. And that is exactly what we are trying to bring about, to get a commitment from them, not on paper, but in terms of their action, to a peaceful evolution in Indochina, and that is precariously poised right now."

This statement is consistent also with the terms of the Vietnam Agreement signed on January 27, 1973 which pledges the signatories to cease military actions, to work for the peaceful evolutionary development and to ensure the self-determination of the people of South Vietnam.

We, of course, will continue to assist South Vietnam in its own efforts of self-determination and insist on full compliance with all provisions of the Vietnam peace agreement. We remain deeply interested in the future of Indochina but believe that the Agreement -- if respected by all parties -- provides a structure whereby the people of the area can themselves peacefully resolve their differences and assure a lasting peace.

The Accords include provisions for the cessation of hostilities and of infiltration in South Vietnam, the withdrawal of all foreign forces in South Vietnam and the establishment of a National Council of Reconciliation and Concord in South Vietnam to develop the modalities of new national elections there. The U.S. will insist that these provisions as well as those concerning the return of all prisoners of war and a full accounting for our missing be carried out scrupulously by all parties.

Concerning the issue of future U.S. economic assistance to North Vietnam, the Administration has clearly indicated that such assistance will depend on North Vietnam's willingness to implement the Vietnam Agreement; moreover, it would be conducted within the larger framework of assistance to the four Indochinese states including South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos as well as North Vietnam. We will also seek to relate U.S. assistance to Indochina to contributions of other nations.

We believe that a program of international reconstruction and development conducted under proper safeguards to assure that the aid is used for its intended purposes, will give the peoples of Indochina a stake in the peace and an incentive for maintaining it and for moving toward a more peaceful evolution in Indochina. Whatever programs may ultimately be proposed, these will, of course, require the participation and approval of Congress, and the Administration intends to engage in full consultations with the Congress before any final programs are formulated.

We believe that the scrupulous implementation of the Agreement and the development of a framework for peaceful evolution in Indochina provide the best hope for the peoples of that troubled region and are in the national interest of the United States.

Sincerely,



March 15, 1973

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your recent letter bringing to my attention the comments you received from Mr. Norman R. Patrick concerning remarks attributed to Dr. Kissinger in a recent item in The Wall Street Journal.

I will be pleased to ask that information be supplied to you which will be responsive to Mr. Patrick's inquiry.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons  
Assistant to the President

Honorable William E. Marshall  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

✓ bcc: w/incoming to Dr. Kissinger for DRAFT REPLY.

WET:EF:YQ:jlc

WILLIAM E. MINSHALL  
23rd DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 7, 1973

MAR 8 1973

Honorable William E. Timmons  
Assistant to the President for  
Congressional Relations  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

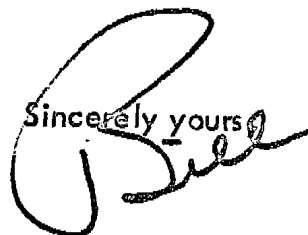
Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mr. Norman R. Patrick of Fairview Park, Ohio, expressing concern over Mr. Kissinger's interview with NBC as reported in the "Wall Street Journal".

Your advice regarding this matter, which I may forward to Mr. Patrick as basis for reply, would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



William E. Minshall  
M.C.

WEM:jhq  
Enclosure

4249 W. 224th St.  
Fairview Park, Ohio  
Feb. 26 1973 44126

MAR 1 1973

The Honorable Congressman William E. Minshall  
2243 Rayburn Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Minshall;

Sunday eve at 10.30 P.M. watched and listened to the House aide Dr. Henry Kissinger being interviewed on A.B.C. by N.B.C.'s Barbara Walters.

As I viewed and listened to the interview I could hardly believe my hearing.

Enclosed is a short report I clipped from the Wall Street Journal as follows below.

Communist take-over of all Vietnam wouldn't be opposed by the U.S. if it resulted from a peaceful and democratic process, White House aide Henry Kissinger told NBC's Barbara Walters. In an interview, he also said passage of the administration's aid program for North Vietnam was necessary to preserve peace there. And he said his pre-election "peace is at hand" statement—which came 10 weeks early—wasn't a bad guess considering the war had lasted 10 years.

The one and only question I asked my son after his four year stint which took him to Viet Nam via the Air Force, why are we in Viet Nam and his answer was, "TO STEM THE FLOW OF COMMUNISM."